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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SHABA: NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS CONTINUE

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR
AKADIRI BRIEFED EMBASSY LAGOS APRIL 4 ON THE CURRENT STATUS
OF NIGERIAN EFFORTS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA.
AS EXPECTED, AKADIRI REPORTED THAT HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER
GARBA WERE RECEIVED AMICABLY IN KINSHASA, BUT IN LUANDA
PRESIDENT NETO DENIED ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SHABA
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AFFAIR AND CONTENTED THERE WAS NOTHING TO DISCUSS. NETO
FINALLY ADMITTED THE KATANGANS HAD BASES IN ANGOLA, BUT THE
NIGERIANS DID NOT PRESS HIM ON THE SOURCE OF THE KATANGANS'
SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY OR ON PROSPECTS FOR SEALING THE
BORDER. AKADIRI STRESSED THAT NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS
HAD NOT FAILED, AS MANY PRESS ACCOUNTS ALLEGED, BUT WERE
ONLY JUST BEGINNING, WITH AN ANGOLAN MINISTERIAL DELEGATION

ARRIVING APRIL 5 FOR FURTHER TALKS.

ON THE US ROLE, AKADIRI EXPRESSED NIGERIA'S "GRATIFICATION" AT THE USG'S "POSITIVE ATTITUDE" AND ITS HOPE THAT THE US WILL CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT ESCALATE THE FIGHTING. HE SAID NIGERIA WILL KEEP US INFORMED OF ITS EFFORTS AND ASKED FOR ANY INFORMATION ON THE SHABA SITUATION WHICH WE COULD PROVIDE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LAGOS 3813, 4/5.)

2. THE HORN: THE SAUDIS HAVE DECIDED

EMBASSY JIDDA REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD'S FORTHCOMING VISITS TO SOMALIA AND NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN WILL MARK THE BEGINNING OF A MAJOR SAUDI INITIATIVE IN THE RED SEA AREA. THE SAUDIS HAVE DECIDED TO:

--ATTEMPT TO PRY THE SOMALIS AND SOUTH YEMENIS AWAY FROM THE SOVIETS, LARGELY THROUGH ECONOMIC INDUCEMENTS;

--SUPPORT DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONTINUATION OF A FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE THERE; AND

--GIVE UP ON THE ETHIOPIAN REGIME AND INCREASE THEIR ASSISTANCE TO THE ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND THE AFARS.

THE SAUDI INITIATIVE IS DESIGNED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT
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THEY SEE AS A SOVIET BLUNDER IN SUPPORTING THE NEW ETHIOPIAN REGIME WITHOUT REGARD FOR SOMALI SENSIBILITIES. THESE ACTIONS ARE VIEWED AS DEFENSIVE AND ARE BASED ON A BELIEF THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE RED SEA HAS BEGUN TO MENACE SAUDI INTERESTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: SAUDI POLICY HAS TENDED IN THIS DIRECTION FOR SOME TIME, BUT THE SENSE OF URGENCY IS NEW. THE SAUDIS WANT OUR HELP, BUT SEEM DETERMINED TO MOVE NOW WHETHER OR NOT WE ARE PREPARED TO COORDINATE POLICIES. (SECRET) JIDDA 2550 (NOFORN), 4/4.)

3. VIKTOR LOUIS ON THE SECRETARY'S MOSCOW VISIT

EMBASSY LONDON HAS OBTAINED A COPY OF AN ARTICLE WHICH VIKTOR LOUIS FILED WITH THE EVENING NEWS. LOUIS CONCLUDES THAT:

--MOSCOW DOES NOT WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT,

BY REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE AMERICAN SALT PROPOSALS, IT IS PRESSURING THE UNITED STATES.

--IT WOULD BE WRONG TO EXPECT A COUNTER-PROPOSAL FROM THE SOVIETS BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTAND THE BALL IS IN THE AMERICAN COURT, AND HOPE THE AMERICANS WILL USE THE FEW WEEKS REMAINING UNTIL THE MAY MEETING TO RETHINK THEIR POSITION.

--THE AMERICAN HANDLING OF SALT IS BOUND TO AFFECT OTHER TOPICS. HOWEVER, BREZHNEV'S PARTICIPATION IN THE VISIT INDICATES THAT THE SOVIETS WANT TO KEEP THE DOOR OPEN FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN ALL SPHERES. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 5610, 4/5.)

4. BRAZIL: PESSIMISM AND UNCERTAINTY

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BRAZILIAN STATE GOVERNOR CHAVES HAS TOLD OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN RIO DE JANEIRO THAT:

--HE IS DEEPLY WORRIED OVER THE INTERNAL SITUATION. THE PARLIAMENTARY DEADLOCK OVER THE JUDICIAL REFORM AMENDMENT HAS CREATED AN IMPASSE FROM WHICH HE SEES NO WAY OUT. THE SITUATION IS EXTREMELY TENSE AND THE CONDITIONS ARE PRESENT FOR BLOODY INTERNAL STRIFE.

--HE BELIEVES IT POSSIBLE THAT THE US HUMAN RIGHTS OFFENSIVE MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE INTERNAL CRISIS. UNDER THIS THEORY, THE RADICAL/COMMUNIST WING OF THE BRAZILIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT PRECIPITATED THE PARLIAMENTARY CRISIS TO SEE IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD YIELD FOR THE SAKE OF ITS BATTERED INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.

--WITH THE FIRM GOVERNMENT REACTION AND THE DETERIORATING AND INCREASINGLY POLARIZED ATMOSPHERE, US ACTIONS COULD BE CRUCIAL IN DETERMINING WHETHER THERE IS AN EXPLOSION. HE HOPES THE US WILL NOT PRESS FURTHER ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT.

--HE ALSO HOPES WASHINGTON WILL GO EASY ON BRAZIL ON NUCLEAR MATTERS. SINCE THE FRG--NOT BRAZIL--IS A SIGNATORY OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, THE FRG IS THE PROPER TARGET FOR US PROTESTATIONS.

EMBASSY BRASILIA COMMENT: CHAVES, A MODERATE WHO IS FRIENDLY TO THE US AND CLOSE TO PRESIDENT GEISEL, REVEALS AN UNCERTAINTY AND PESSIMISM COMMON IN HIGH-LEVEL BRAZILIAN POLITICAL CIRCLES, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE MARCH 30 POLIT-

ICAL DEADLOCK. (CONFIDENTIAL) RIO DE JANEIRO 1588, 4/5.)

5. PAKISTAN: BHUTTO'S NEW CABINET

EMBASSY ISLAMABAD REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S NEW
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CABINET IS PROBABLY THE MOST COMPETENT AND REPRESENTATIVE
MINISTERIAL GROUP WITH WHOM HE HAS EVER WORKED. BY SACKING
SEVERAL MINISTERS SUSPECTED OF VOTE FRAUD, BHUTTO HAS MADE
AN IMPLICIT OFFER TO THE OPPOSITION TO END THE CURRENT CON-
FRONTATION IN EXCHANGE FOR MORE SEATS IN THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY. THE EMBASSY CONCLUDES THE APPOINTMENTS WILL NOT
AFFECT FUNDAMENTAL POLICY DECISIONS, HOWEVER, SINCE BHUTTO
MAKES THEM HIMSELF. IN THE SHORT RUN, THE APPOINTMENTS
WILL ALSO MAKE LITTLE REAL DIFFERENCE IN HIS EFFORT TO BEAT
BACK THE OPPOSITION'S CHALLENGE TO HIS CONTINUED RULE.
(CONFIDENTIAL) ISLAMABAD 3252, 4/5 AND (UNCLASSIFIED)
ISLAMABAD 3039, 3/30.)

6. REASONS FOR CANCELLATION OF KENYAN ELECTIONS STILL
UNCLEAR

EMBASSY NAIROBI REPORTS THAT THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE CAN-
CELLATION OF THE KANU NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS ORIG-
INALLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 3 REMAINS UNCLEAR. TWO ALTER-
NATIVE EXPLANATIONS ARE CURRENTLY MAKING THE ROUNDS:

--PRESIDENT KENYATTA WAS TOO ILL TO PRESIDE OVER THE
CONVENTION.

--KENYATTA INTENTIONALLY ALLOWED THE PROCESS TO AP-
PROACH CULMINATION BEFORE CALLING IT OFF TO DEMON-
STRATE HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY.

ADHERENTS TO THE LATTER ALTERNATIVE BELIEVE THAT KENYATTA
WAS ANNOYED BECAUSE SEVERAL KEY DECISIONS IN PREPARING THE
ELECTIONS WERE TAKEN WITHOUT CONSULTING HIM AS CHIEF OF
STATE AND KANU HEAD. (SECRET) NAIROBI 4263, 4/4.)
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